

The Hong Kong Daily Press.

No. 6550 第五百五十六號

日初月廿十年吉

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH, 1878.

三月廿八

PRISE \$2 PER MONTH.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.
November 27, FU-YEN, Chinese str., 950 A. C., Canton 27th November, General G. M. S. N. Co.
November 27, OSIR, Brit. bark, 381 tons, Swan 25th Nov., Ballast—Ann Arbor, KENNEDY & Co.
November 27, EMIL, Spanish steamer, 222, Blanca, Manila 24th November, General EKSTRÖM & Co.

CLEARANCES.
AT THE HARBOR Master's Office
NOVEMBER 27TH.
Fu-yen, Chinese steamer, for Shanghai.
Dugay, British steamer, for East Coast.
Atalaya, German steamer, for Hoichow.

DEPARTURES.
November 27, NINGPO, British steamer, for Shanghai.
November 27, ALBAY, British steamer, for Hoichow.
November 27, GEORGE STORFIELD, Am. ship, for Callao.

PASSENGERS.
ARRIVED.
Per EMU, str. from Manila
2 Europeans, cabin, and 30 Chinese
DEPARTED.
For Ningpo, str. for Shanghai
Mr. Nelson, str. for Hoichow
Mr. Heron, str. for Callao
For Douglas, str., for East Coast
For Swatow.—Mr. and Mrs. Duffield, and Miss Bickets, for Foochow.—Misses A. M. Brown and Reid.

REPORTS.
The Spanish steamship *Emery* reports left Manila on 24th November, and had strong N.E. monsoon and very heavy sea.

VESSELS THAT HAVE ARRIVED IN EUROPE FROM PORTS IN CHINA, JAPAN, AND MANILA.

(Per last Month Advert.)

Marta Jackson... Manila July 27
Pheon... Hongkong July 28
Iamus... Hongkong July 28
Hankow (s)... Hankow July 28
Clara... Swatow Aug. 9
Glenis... Swatow Aug. 10
Hopefull... Swatow Aug. 11
Gleatrain... Manila Aug. 12
Egina (s)... Swatow Aug. 12
Sister Elizabeth (s)... Swatow Aug. 12
Vivian... Hankow Aug. 27
Patroclus (s)... China Ports Aug. 27
Galatea (s)... Manila Sept. 1
Polynesian... Manila Sept. 2
Achilles (s)... China Ports Sept. 5
Glenys (s)... China Ports Sept. 6
Oxfordshire (s)... Foochow Sept. 7
Saxos (s)... Foochow Sept. 7
Standard (s)... Foochow Sept. 26
Felix Mendelssohn... Manila Sept. 26
Ellsworth... Manila Sept. 26
Suria (s)... Shanghai Sept. 27
Prins Fred. Carl (s)... Foochow Sept. 29
Sea Gull (s)... Hongkong Sept. 30
Comet... Yokohama Oct. 4
River Lagan... Liverpool Oct. 5
Eleazar... Hongkong Oct. 5
John C. Mynor... Manila Oct. 5

VESSELS EXPECTED AT HONGKONG.
(Corrected to Date)

Sydenham... London July 18
Victor (s)... Liverpool July 19
Mary Mildred... Newcastle July 20
Stan... Antwerp July 20
Pilgrim... Foochow July 22
Abey Cooper... Antwerp July 23
Somerville... Hamburg July 30
Charnier... Cardiff July 31
Bury St. Edmunds... Penarth Aug. 7
Alfredo... Cardiff Aug. 7
Invincible... Rio de Janeiro Aug. 8
Uraia... Penarth Aug. 10
Core... Cork Aug. 11
Leda... Cork Aug. 11
Exodus... Cork Aug. 16
Excelsior... Hamburg Sept. 15
James Shepherd... London Sept. 17
Circum... Cork Sept. 30
Fatucine (s)... Liverpool Oct. 5
Erst... Antwerp Oct. 6
Fervor (s)... Hamburg Oct. 6
Pola (s)... Marseilles Oct. 20
Sandwich (s)... Marseilles Nov. 17

AUCTION SALES TO-DAY.

J. M. ARMSTRONG.
At 1 P.M.
Household Furniture, fixtures, &c.

C. THE EVENING.
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT
AND IMPORTER OF
F. B. ENGLISH GOODS.

Don't for VICTORY WATERS and Special Agent for PINAUD's PARISIENNE AND ANTONIO'S INKS
Gentlemen's Best French Boots and Shoes.

4, QUEEN'S ROAD, HONGKONG.
FOR STORAGE OR SALE.

EIGHT FIRST-CLASS GRANITE GO-
DOWNs, Nos. 60, 61, 62, 63, 64,
65 and 66, PRAYA EAST. The Capacity
is from 1,500 tons to over 2,000 tons. Price
Moderate.

Apply to TANG LOK,
Hollywood Road,
Hongkong, 29th November, 1878. [2m180]

SING LEE STEAM LAUNCH COMPANY.

The Undersigned beg to inform the Public
that they have just added TWO NEW
STEAM LAUNCHES to their fleet, and that
they are now prepared to convey Passengers
and Goods, on the shortest notice of VERY LOW
RATES. These Steam Launches having superior
Cabin accommodation, are most suitable for Excursions.
For Particulars, apply to

SING LEE & CO.
No. 1, Queen's Road, Manl.

Hongkong, 4th November, 1878.

PHOENIX FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

FROM this date, until further notice, a
count of twenty-one days (21) will be
allowed upon Insurances effected with this Company
DOUGLAS LIPSKY & CO.
Agents.

Hongkong, 27th June, 1878. [2m180]

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COM-
PANY.

The Undersigned Agents for the above
Company, are prepared to grant Policies
against Fire to the extent of \$10,000 on any
one FIRST-CLASS RISK.

Current Rates.

A RETURN of TWENTY PER CENT ("20%")
will be made on the premium charged on all
Insurances, such Return being payable on the
issue of the Policy.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.
Agents.

Imperial Fire Insurance Company.

Hongkong, 29th August, 1878. [2m180]

NOTICES OF FIRMS.

NOTICE
FROM the 1st October, 1878, to LAST DAY
OF EACH RECEIVED by PAULINUS at his
New Drapery Rooms, No. 10, Queen's Road
Opposite the Medical Hall.

Hongkong, 24th September, 1878. [1m100]

NOTICE

DURING my absence from the Colony, Mr.

MIGUEL MARIA MATHER is auth-

ored to SIGN my NAME for presentation

M. A. DOS REMEDIOS.

Macau, 9th November, 1878. [1m100]

NOTICE

THE INVESTIGATOR AND RESPONSIBILITY
of Mr. ARTHUR CHART in our Firm

CEASED on the 31st December last.

H. D. INGLITS & CO.

Hongkong, 13th June, 1878. [1m100]

NOTICE

From this date Mr. A. MCIVER will assume

Charge of the Company's Business at this Port.

ADAM LIND,

Superintendent

Hongkong, 19th November, 1878. [1m100]

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NOTICE

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A DVERTISEMENTS can be received for insertion in the CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY for 1879 up to 15th December. Terms can be had on application at the Daily Press Office. Hongkong, 1st November, 1878.

NOTICE

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY FEB 1879.
(WN) which has been incorporated "THE CHINA DIRECTORY."

This Work is now being prepared for publication. Numerous important additions are being made to render it more valuable as a Commercial Guide.

The PUBLISHER requests that those Friends who have not yet returned the Printed Forms which have been sent to them to fill up, will be kind enough to do so WITHOUT DELAY. Any Persons who have recently arrived, or to whom Printed Forms have not been forwarded, are desired to send their Names and Addresses as early as possible for insertion.

Daily Press Office, November 1st, 1878.

NOTICE

A. S. WATSON AND CO. FAMILY AND DISPENSING CHEMISTS.

By Appointment to His Excellency the Governor and his Royal Highness the Duke of EDINBURGH, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS, PREPENERS,

PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS, DRUGGISTS' SUPPLYMEN,

And

AERATED WATER MAKERS.

SHIPS' MEDICINE CHESTS REPTITED, PASSENGER SHIPS SUPPLIED.

NOTICE.—To avoid delay in the execution of Orders it is particularly requested that all business communications be addressed to the Firm, A. S. Watson and Co., or HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed "The Editor," and those on business "The Manager," and not to individuals by name.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper.

Correspondents are requested to forward their name and address with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

DEATH.

On Tuesday morning at Hongkong, the daughter of Captain Pantelis, of the British bark *Perry*, aged one year and ten months, after twelve hours' illness.

The Daily Press, HONGKONG, NOVEMBER 28TH, 1878.

The letter on the Opium Monopoly signed "Chinaman," published in another column is worthy of attention. The writer points out some of the difficulties which any newcomer into this field would have to encounter in the opposition of the old farmer and the inadequate protection afforded the monopolist by the Ordinance. He avers that the old farmer will, if he fails to obtain a renewal of the monopoly, retreat to Macao and prepare opium there with which to undersell the new farmer here. We do not think this opposition, even if carried out, would last long, but it is very certain that the present tenant of the farm could give a great deal of trouble if so disposed. We hear that he is accumulating a large stock of prepared opium and will be able to flood the market with this drug when his term is up, and thus for a time render the monopoly unprofitable to his successor. As a matter of fact it is undoubtedly very difficult to obtain tenders for the farm because of the combination of the Chinese and the great influence the Opium Farmer has in the Colony. There are, as our correspondents put it, few Chinese who dare to squander a tender, however much inclined they may be to do so. We understand, however, that His Excellency the GOVERNOR has received a tender of \$180,000 per annum for the farm which is a considerable increase (some \$48,000) on the present rental. This sum is not equal to his expectations, and he has not accepted the tender. The farm is worth much more than is now paid for it, and Mr. HENNESSY is fully justified in demanding a very material increase on the rent. It will, however, be well, perhaps, to make searching inquiries into its real value and ascertain, as nearly as may be, what the Farmer can afford to pay. Some of the natives state that it is not quite fair to compare the Hongkong farm with those at Saigon and Singapore, as the drug has to be sold at a much lower and less remunerative rate in Hongkong than in those places. One thing the Government might do, and that we have already suggested, is to afford greater protection to the Opium Farmer. If he pays a fair price for his monopoly he is entitled to this, and the existing Ordinance fails to ensure it to him.

The GOVERNMENT will have to encounter strong opposition in any change it may attempt to make, and it would not be better to conclude a new agreement either with the old farmer or with a new one if some considerable increase can be obtained, than to hold out too far on this occasion.

Possibly a still larger sum may be realized from this source the next time the tender expires.

THESE very scanty particulars which from time to time reach us of the progress of affairs in Kwangtung do not furnish much material on which to base any opinion as to the prospects of the insurrection. One fact seems well established, however, namely, that General Li Yung-hai, has for several weeks been at the head of an army in Kwangtung without any very definite plan of procedure. At first he set up pretensions to the crown of Annam and avowed his intention of setting that territory, and will, lending no active support to such a

movement, the Chinese Authorities appear tacitly to have acquiesced in them. At all events, there is nothing to show that they opposed Li's claim, and they do not appear to have made any attempt to restrain him from marching on Tonquin. Then came what appeared to be a change in the policy of the rebel leader. He seems suddenly to have waked up to a consciousness that by attacking Tonquin he would involve himself with the French. Accordingly he withdrew his forces from the frontier of the country under French protection. Next a report comes that the Governor of Kwangtung had at last received orders to suppress the rebels, a task, it is a fifth-part of the enormous affect before, utterly beyond his power and resources to accomplish. Just as well might the Governor of Hongkong be expected to put down the garrison—supposing them to have revolted—with the aid of the police. The last news received is to the effect that Lt. Yung-hai has issued a proclamation promising that his troops will neither plunder the rich, nor oppress the poor. This assurance, if strictly kept, will go far to prepossess the people in his favour, but it can scarcely be accepted as a proof of loyal intentions, even though accompanied, as it is, by a declaration that the General is ready to serve under another commander if a better one can be found. For what purpose is this man in arms? That is the question, and at present it is difficult one to answer. Meantime, the Kwangtung Authorities appear to be little disturbed by the events in the adjoining province, and have shown no disposition even to assist the Governor of Kwangtung. We can only suppose they do not believe that he is in any need of assistance, and that Lt. Yung-hai's movements constitute no menace to the Imperial authority.

The U.S. corvette *Ashuelot* was docked at Aberdeen yesterday at 11.15 a.m.

The Eastern and Australian Mail Steamship Company's steamer *Meander*, Captain Dark R.N., came round from Aberdeen Dock yesterday morning.

A Parade and Inspection of the Volunteer and Garrison Forces will take place at the Central Fire Brigade Station, at three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon next.

The Chinese expect to hear by French Mail some definite news as to the course of the French Government at Saigon intend taking regarding the Kwangtung rebels.

We are informed by the Superintendent of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company that the duplex is established and working splendidly upon the Company's Penang-Madras section.

The recent performances by the Band of the 4th Highlanders at the Garrison Theatre were so successful that they intend repeating it Wednesday next, the 4th proximate.

The Royal English Opera Company have been invited to postpone their performance of Bellini's opera "The Lily of Killarney" at the Theatre Royal to Saturday, owing to the continued indisposition of Mr. Vernon, the director.

Five sailing ships have entered for the week to day, namely, the *Amelia*, *Princess Lizzie Perry*, *Honica*, and *Holmby*. There will be some further entries, and the rice will doubt be very exciting amongst the shipping. They will start to eleven o'clock this morning from some moorings off the *Lizzie Perry*.

The dinner party at Government House last evening included H. E. Marquis Towne, Mr. Lin Han Ching (Secretary of Legation), Mr. C. Y. Chen (Interpreter), Bishop Raimondi, the Hon. T. O. Hayllar, Q.C., and Mrs. Hayllar, Colonel and Mrs. Loring, Mr. and Mrs. Newton, Dr. and Mrs. Chouteau, Lieutenant Adams, U.S.N., and Mr. Andrew, Commander de Langle, Commander Boys, U.S.M.C., Captain Dixon, R.N., Dr. Mr. Lazarus, 74th Regt., Dr. Mr. O'Brien, Mr. J. E. Scott, Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Beaumont, and Major Palmer, R.E.A.D.C. The band of the 7th Highlanders played a selection of music during dinner, and by kind permission of Colonel Jago and the officers, Quartermaster-Sergeant McKinnon performed on the harp.

NOTICE.—We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinion expressed by our Correspondents.

THE OPUM MONOPOLY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE DAILY PRESS."

Six—Hongkong derives a great portion of its revenue from the opium farm. The profits of the monopoly, however, are not derived from the local consumption alone, but depend largely on the export of prepared opium to foreign countries—China, Korea, Honolulu, West Indies, and the Australian Colonies.

The cheapest prepared opium, we are told, is to be had in this Colony; no other place, under the sun, could sell cheaper than Hongkong.

The revenue derived from the local consumption of prepared opium sold at the present rate by licensed dealers, who pay the farmer for the license and taxes on the opium to be prepared, amounts to one-fourth of the revenue paid to Government.

The profit appears small on the sale of prepared opium for export to the above-named places, but the quantity sold on a small margin of profit raises the amount to an enormous sum of money. When the exporters get cheap opium the price of the same, from 65 cents up to 85 cents per tael, amounts to from \$350,000 to \$500,000 per annum, according to the quality. If the Government exacted a fair price for the monopoly, the farmer would be made amply profitable.

Having finished conversing with this talkative, hairy, every word of what he has told you, having been for once in his life the strict truth-teller, I will now get back to my story.

He is a good fellow, but the Chinese are very funny folks, and perfectly good. They are some more enterprising, and the rice will doubt be very exciting amongst the shipping. They will start to eleven o'clock this morning from some moorings off the *Lizzie Perry*.

The dinner party at Government House last evening included H. E. Marquis Towne, Mr. Lin Han Ching (Secretary of Legation), Mr. C. Y. Chen (Interpreter), Bishop Raimondi, the Hon. T. O. Hayllar, Q.C., and Mrs. Hayllar, Colonel and Mrs. Loring, Mr. and Mrs. Newton, Dr. and Mrs. Chouteau, Lieutenant Adams, U.S.N., and Mr. Andrew, Commander de Langle, Commander Boys, U.S.M.C., Captain Dixon, R.N., Dr. Mr. Lazarus, 74th Regt., Dr. Mr. O'Brien, Mr. J. E. Scott, Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Beaumont, and Major Palmer, R.E.A.D.C. The band of the 7th Highlanders played a selection of music during dinner, and by kind permission of Colonel Jago and the officers, Quartermaster-Sergeant McKinnon performed on the harp.

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The profit appears small on the sale of prepared opium for export to the above-named places, but the quantity sold on a small margin of profit raises the amount to an enormous sum of money. When the exporters get cheap opium the price of the same, from 65 cents up to 85 cents per tael, amounts to from \$350,000 to \$500,000 per annum, according to the quality. If the Government exacted a fair price for the monopoly, the farmer would be made amply profitable.

Having finished conversing with this talkative, hairy, every word of what he has told you, having been for once in his life the strict truth-teller, I will now get back to my story.

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The only failure, so far announced, in connection with the bank are those of Messrs. Smith, Fleming & Co., merchants, Leadenhall-street, with their correspondents, Messrs. Wm. Nicol & Co., of Bombay, and Messrs. Fleming & Co., of Karachi, which, although technically three, are in reality one firm, whose liabilities to the bank jointly amount to about \$3,000,000. This sum is to be paid by the firm, with liabilities of \$2,500,000, of which \$1,500,000 is due to the bank, of which the principal partner is the firm, Mr. Lewis Potter, was a leading director; and three small houses, William Simons & Co., ship-builders, Liverpool; Messrs. C. H. Dunlop & Co., cotton manufacturers, Glasgow; and Messrs. Bowman & Co., manufacturers, Glasgow.—*Brief.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Pittsburgh Telegraph thinks that the best plan to make a barrel of flour go a long way is to send it to the starving Chinese.

The individual who called eight boats comfortable defended his position by saying they made a man forget all his miseries.

A celebrated philosopher used to say, "The favours of fortune are like sleep—only sleep and creeping things mount to the summit."

Said an old friend, "I don't like a man who is intimate on short acquaintance, because he is almost sure to be short" on infinite acquaintance."

The youngster who was sent away from the table just as the pastry came on went sadly upstairs, singing, "Good-bye, sweet tar, good-bye."

An honest Hibernian, in a company who blamed the clergy for failing a tenth part of the people's property, exclaimed, "Ay, they would take a twelfth part if they could!"

Mrs. M. Luckie: "Why, Donald, did you yesterday tell that you were going to join the temperance lecture?" "Indeed, ma'am, there was no vacancy till the end of the year."

At the first meeting of the Ethnographical Institute, at the Hotel de la Paix, in Paris, Mr. Joseph Healy, the eminent partisans of the morals and ethics of Central Arabia, and in particular of the ancient realm Saba, into which he has penetrated. In this region the traveller discovered traces of civilization, which for centuries must have past away. Mr. Healy has taken great pains to describe the merits and virtues of the Arabian descendants of the ancient Sabeans. Among many important facts in the following account of ancient Central Arabia is divided among a great many tribes, who are continually at war with each other, and almost everywhere he found there castes, a kind of slaves, labourers, &c. The Jews are only permitted to learn trades and work as artisans; they are mere slaves, but slaves who are permitted to select their own masters, as they are not allowed to buy or sell, and what seems most remarkable, they are all faithful to their word or oath.—*Irish World.*

A portrait round which a very exceptional amount of literary interest clusters has been offered to the trustees of the National Portrait Gallery for purchase. It is a likeness of Charles Lamb, painted by the artist and essayist, William Hogarth, in 1780. The portrait was bequeathed upon the nation, and is now offered with this offer.

Douglas La Pauk & Co., Agents, Hongkong, 2d September, 1878. [1479]

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY.

FROM this date until further notice, a discount of Twenty per cent. (20%) upon the current local rate of Premium will be allowed upon Insurance effected with this Company.

Douglas La Pauk & Co., Agents, Hongkong, 2d June, 1878. [1480]

SUN FIRE OFFICE.

The Undersigned are prepared to grant Policies against Fire to the extent of \$50,000 on First-class Risks.

A Discount of Twenty per cent. (20%) upon the Current Local Rate will be allowed upon Insurance effected with this Office.

Linstead & Co., Agents, Sun Fire Office, Hongkong, 1st June, 1878. [1481]

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Undersigned have been appointed Agents for the above Company, to grant Policies against Fire to the extent of \$40,000 on Buildings or on Goods stored thereon.

Douglas La Pauk & Co., Agents, Hongkong, 9th November, 1878. [1482]

MANCHESTER FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF MANCHESTER AND LONDON.

The Undersigned have been appointed Agents for the above Company, to grant Policies against Fire to the extent of \$20,000 on Buildings or on Goods stored thereon.

Siemssen & Co., Agents, Hongkong, 16th November, 1878. [1483]

SATAVIA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Undersigned, having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire to the extent of \$10,000 on Current Risks.

Holiday Wise & Co., Agents, Hongkong, 1st October, 1878. [1484]

THE DUSSELDORF UNIVERSAL MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

The Undersigned, having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire to the extent of \$10,000 on Current Risks.

Royal Insurance Company, Agents, Hongkong, 1st January, 1878. [1485]

THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY (LIMITED).

CAPITAL TAHS 600,000, EQUAL TO \$800,000.00.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

EXCHANGE.

ON, LONDON—Bank Bills, on demand, 3/7.

Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight, 3/7.

Bank Bills, at monthly sight, 3/8.

Credits, at 6 months' sight, 3/8.

Documentary Bills at 6 months' sight, 3/8.

On BANCA—Bank, sight, 2/1.

On BANCA—Bank, sight, 2/1.

On SWITZERLAND—Bank, sight, 2/1.

Bank, sight, 2/1.

Private, 30 days' sight, 2/1.

SHARES.

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Shares—72 per share, premium.

Union Insurance Society of Canton—\$1,000 per share.

China Trade's Insurance Company's Shares—\$1,550 per share.

North China Insurance—Tls. 1,275 per share.

Yangtze Insurance Association—Tls. 720 per share.

On the Imperial Company, Limited—Tls. 10 to 12 per share.

Chinese Insurance Company—\$340 per share.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$910 per share.

China Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$225 per share.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company's Shares—77 percent premium.

Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.'s Shares—\$12 per share.

Shanghai Steam Navigation Company—Tls. 17 per share.

China Coast Steam Navigation Company—Tls. 10 per share.

Hongkong Gas Company's Shares—\$55 per share.

Hongkong Hotel Company's Shares—\$65 per share.

China Stars Refining Company, Limited—\$160 per share.

Chinese Imperial Loan—\$210.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1877—\$108.

SALES OF NOVEMBER 27TH AS REPORTED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

Green Paper—100 lbs. at \$2.20, by Chen Chong to travelling trader.

Dried Lily Flowers—20 bags, at \$9.50, by Chen Chong to travelling trader.

Liquorice—10 bundles, at \$7.70, by Chen Chong to travelling trader.

White Pepper—20 bags, at \$14.40, by Hop Hing to travelling trader.

HONGKONG TEMPERATURE.

TEMP. METAL. FAIRFORD & CO.'S INSTRUMENTS.

Bathometer—1 m. at \$1.50.

Bathometer—1 m. at \$1.60.

Bathometer—1 m. at \$1.80.

Thermometer—1 m. at \$1.

Thermometer—1 m. at \$1

EXTRACTS.

WORDS.

If words could satisfy the heart,
The heart might find less care;
But words like saffron birds, depart,
And leave but empty air;

The heart a pillar upon earth,

Finds often, when it needs,

That words are of a little worth
As just so many weeds;

A little said—and truly said—

Can deeper joy impart

Than hosts of words, which reach the head;

But never touch the heart;

The voice that sings a sunny way,

A lonely heart to cheer;

Hath off the frosty words to say;

But, oh! these few—how dear!

If words could satisfy the breast,

The world might hold a feast;

But words—when summoned to the test—

Oft satisfy the least—

Like plants that make a gaudy show,

All blossom in the root;

But whose poison cannot grow

One particle of fruit!

THE STORY OF RUSSIAN INTRIGUE
IN ASIA.

BROKEN PROMISES.

In the autumn of 1869, the principal point of discussion between the English and the Russian Governments, in which Mr. Forsyth and Sir A. Buchanan played a leading part, on the side of England, related to the necessity of exactly defining the boundary of Afghanistan.

The Indian Government had objected to that country being regarded as a neutral zone, and the English and Russian Cabinets were endeavouring to arrive at an understanding which should fix the limit over which the influence of each Government should be recognized. England was prepared to exclude herself from all points north of the Oxus. The territory of Dost Mohammed had extended to that river; and, though Badakshan and Wakhan were the last provinces to come under Shere Af's rule, the English Cabinet maintained the "Amber's right" to those two districts. Russia, however, put forward a claim to both on the part of Bokhara and Kokand. But, plainly, she adopted that course on her own behalf, for the Bokharian Ambassadors then in St. Petersburg intimated to Mr. Forsyth that Bokhara had no power whatever: Badakshan, Russia's object in endeavouring to withhold those provinces from Afghanistan was evident. An examination of the successive steps in Russia's advance across Asia will show that, where the selection was possible, the Russian commanders have always preferred a mountain to a river frontier.

When these negotiations were at a standstill, Russia had neared the Oxus, her influence extended to that river, and the idea was already present to her generals that the Hindu Koosh would be the preferable frontier. Sir Henry Rawlinson gives another reason for Russia's patronage of the claims of the Khanate of Afghanistan. He points out that the high road of trade between Western and Central Asia had always passed through Badakshan and Wakhan to Yarkand and Kashgar; and that it was Russia's aim to prevent such an important route coming into the hands of a State under English influence.

It is amusing to see how skilfully Russian diplomats laboured to veil this contented advance towards India under the guise of anxiety for the rights of Bokhara and Kokand. Foiled by the arguments of Mr. Forsyth and Sir A. Buchanan, they temporized by proposing that the negotiations should be deferred until a report had been presented on the subject by General Kaufmann.

The British Cabinet frequently and persistently asked for the producing of that report, but different pleas for delay were made year after year. At length Lord Granville, in a despatch dated October 17, 1872, endeavoured to bring the question to a settlement. He proposed that the northern boundary of Afghanistan should include Badakshan and Wakhan, and that the line of frontier should begin in the north-east at Wood's Lake and extend along the Oxus to Khoja Salch. Travelling westward from that place, he proposed that the frontier should touch Anduk, which would be its extreme point to the north-west, and include Shiberian, Seripol, Mazarvan, and Aksia. Roughly speaking, the proposed limit of the north-west frontier of Afghanistan attended from Khoja Salch on the Oxus to a point on the Persian frontier a few miles south of Sarakhs. The Russian reply to this despatch admitted all that Lord Granville suggested from Khoja Salch westwards; but Prince Gortschakoff continued to raise objections to those portions of the north-east boundary which included Badakshan and Wakhan. The October despatch of Lord Granville had also the effect of drawing forth the long-expected report of General Kaufmann. The document is full of detail, but it suggests new points that deserve special notice.

Shortly after this exchange of ideas Count Schouvaloff unexpectedly arrived in London. On the 8th of January he had an interview with Lord Granville, and the various points of difference between the two Cabinets were considered. The leading subjects of discussion were the boundaries of Afghanistan and the proposed expedition to Khiva, about which the English Government had been making some pressing inquiries. It is not too much to say that the main object of Count Schouvaloff's mission was to obtain English approval of that expedition, and that his instructions were to offer in return for that approval in acceptance of the British demand in regard to the Afghan frontier. On the 8th of January he had an interview with Lord Granville, and the various points of difference between the two Cabinets were considered. The leading subjects of discussion were the boundaries of Afghanistan and the proposed expedition to Khiva, about which the English Government had been

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the English Ambassador that "Russia neither required nor desired to possess the Khanates," required nor desired to possess the Khanates." Khokand and Bokhara, he said, were ready to act according to her wishes, but Khiva was still disposed to be hostile. Nevertheless, at the same moment Russia was secretly preparing an expedition to Khiva; while as to Bokhara, within two months of the last-mentioned date Russia took the important Bokharian fortresses of Shin-i-suts (August 24, 1870). But the promises about Khiva still went on. In June, 1871, M. Westermann declared to Sir A. Buchanan that "he was aware of no change in the policy of the Government or of there being any intention to send expeditions either to Khiva or Bokhara." He added that an expedition to punish the Khan of Khiva, in order to force him to respect the Russian caravan, "had been contemplated, but the expedition would be limited to partial operations on the frontier." The questioning and answering were carried on by means of signs and symbols exhibited on flags which are hoisted aloft, and according to their configuration and arrangement speak a language well known to every experienced seaman, no matter what may be his nationality. The admirable system of communication between ships, that are far apart on the ocean's wide highway at present, has not been improved in much more than twenty years. It was invented in California by Mayatt. Previous to the period mentioned, the system was very imperfect and unsatisfactory. Then, as now, there were, of course, sets of them, vessels of sea, such as bearing a name duly inscribed on her hull. At a distance of half a mile or so, and by the aid of a good glass, the said name might perhaps be made out; but if she was either away the required information had to be obtained by the questioner by means of flags, each one representing a single letter of the alphabet. There are ships' names short as well as long, and *The Poly*, *The Self*, or *The Gall* would require but a few squares of bunting to make known; but when it came to *The Star Spangled Banner*, when I have given the conclusion that an expedition against Khiva is decided upon, and will be made as soon as the weather and circumstances permit." Six or seven months later the Russian papers announced that the expedition had been prepared, but M. Westermann denied it in September, that measures had advanced to such a stage. However, he admitted that if the Khan interfered with commerce, and refused to give up the Russian prisoners, the Russian Government would offer strategical difficulties." In summing up the result of his conversation with M. Stremovskoi, Long Augias Loftus wrote: "I have gained the conviction that an expedition against Khiva is decided upon, and will be made as soon as the weather and circumstances permit." 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